

# *Decodon verticillatus*

## Whorled Loosestrife



Sometimes classified as a shrub, sometimes as an herb. Stems are woody, but die back each winter. Grows along the water's edge, and is a significant "shoreline builder." Stems are 3'-9' long, arching downward, rooting at the tips where they come in contact with water or mud. Whorled loosestrife is a good butterfly plant, and provides food and cover for waterfowl. Also called swamp loosestrife, or willow herb. Note that this is not the exotic invasive plant purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

***Suggested companions:*** buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), any of the willows (*Salix*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,  
by Emmet J. Judziewicz

Plant Type: Shrub

Size: 3'-10' H  
W

Water Tolerant: Very

Habitat:

Open Shallow Water  
Lake and Pond Shores  
Marshes & Bogs

Soil: Very Damp/Wet  
Rich Moist  
Average Garden Soil

Exposure: sun

Flower Color:  
Purple

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:  
July  
August  
September

Other Attributes:

Butterfly attracting  
Bird attracting  
Wildlife attracting